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FOR ACTION

COUNTRY PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATION**

Argentina

Addendum

SUMMARY

The present addendum to the country note submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 1996 contains the final country programme recommendation for Board approval.

It contains a recommendation for funding the country programme of Argentina which has an annual planning level of $1,000,000 or less. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the amount of $5,000,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $20,000,000 in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 1997 to 2001.

* E/ICEF/1996/18.

** The original country note provided only indicative figures for estimated programme cooperation. The figures provided in the present addendum are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1995. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1996 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.43/Add.2).

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BASIC DATA
(1994 unless otherwise stated)

Child population (millions, 0-15 years)	10.6
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	27
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	24
Underweight (% moderate and severe)	..
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) (1990)	100
Literacy (% male/female) (1995)	96/96
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female) (1991)	95/95
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%)	..
Access to safe water (%) (1991)	71
Access to health services (%) (1985)	71
GNP per capita	$8,060

One-year-olds fully immunized against:

tuberculosis:	100 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus:	97 per cent
measles:	95 per cent
poliomyelitis:	84 per cent

Pregnant women immunized against:

tetanus:	59 per cent

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. After several decades of economic stagnation, rising inflation and political instability, Argentina experienced the strengthening of democracy and major economic improvement during the early 1990s. Although poverty has declined from a high of 30 per cent in 1990, at 22 per cent the rate is still three times higher than in 1980. Since 1995, however, Argentina has experienced an economic recession. Unemployment reached 18 per cent - the highest rate in Latin America - and among poor female-headed households is as high as 40 per cent. Disparities in income are increasing.

2. Argentina has achieved the majority of the goals for children for the year 2000 and of its national programme of action (NPA) goals. However, achieving the NPA goals for the reduction of under-five and maternal mortality rates, water supply and sanitation and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative still presents challenges. Reaching and sustaining those goals will depend on reducing significant disparities at provincial and local levels. Additionally, a number of recently emerged problems affecting the rights of children and adolescents reflect the growing complexity of the social situation in Argentina, and have not yet been sufficiently assessed. These problems include violence and child labour, teenage pregnancies, AIDS and drug and alcohol abuse. There are gender disparities in employment, social issues and political participation and representation.

3. Argentina ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, and in 1994, incorporated the Convention into the National Constitution and submitted its first report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In its concluding observations, the Committee noted, among other issues, the need for

effective coordination in the implementation of the Convention and for increased knowledge about its principles among those responsible for setting and implementing policies affecting children (including law enforcement and judicial personnel). The terms of the Convention are still not fully reflected in national and provincial legislation, nor in social policies and programmes.

PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1991-1996

4. The country programme for the period 1991-1995 was approved by the Executive Board in 1991 with available general resources of $3,750,000 and $3,000,000 in supplementary funds. In 1992, the annual planning level was increased from $750,000 to $1 million as a result of an agreement between UNICEF and the Government to accelerate and expand programme activities related to the development of provincial and municipal plans of action to achieve the decade's goals for children. A short-duration programme for 1996 facilitated adjustment to a programme cycle coordinated with that of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

5. The main objectives of the programme were to: (a) highlight the child as a focus of mobilization of public and private efforts and resources; (b) reduce regional disparities in the allocation of public sector resources; and (c) help to strengthen local- and provincial-level capacities to plan and manage programmes in favour of children.

6. An important early achievement was the establishment, in 1991, of the National Commitment in favour of Mother and Child (Compromiso Nacional en favor de la Madre y el Niño) as the federal Government's NPA to achieve the goals of the World Summit for Children. Substantial resources have been mobilized within Argentina in favour of UNICEF-sponsored programmes. The use of the mass media and special sports and cultural events boosted local fund-raising for UNICEF programmes from $400,000 in 1992 to nearly $2 million in 1995. A programme designed by UNICEF for provincial-level action on maternal and child health and nutrition now operates in all of the nations 23 provinces, with financial support from the World Bank.

7. UNICEF advocated effectively with the National Congress for integration of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women into the new National Constitution, adopted in 1994.

8. Efforts for reducing regional disparities, allocating public sector resources towards programmes for children and building local capacities have been less successful. While some provincial and municipal governments have prepared their own plans of action for children, most were preoccupied with pre-electoral activities in 1994 and 1995. UNICEF technical and financial support were limited to specific sectors in two of the poorest provinces.

9. A communication and social mobilization programme successfully used the mass media to bring children's issues, particularly the protection of their rights during periods of economic adjustment, to the attention of the public. UNICEF also supported an advocacy network of civic and professional associations, the National Group for the Defense of Children's Rights. Funds from the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean were critical in launching this effort.

10. With respect to women and gender issues, the objectives were to increase gender awareness and women's participation in the political and social sectors and to strengthen grass-roots women's organizations. Workshops, seminars and mass media campaigns addressed the ill-treatment of and discrimination against girls and women.

11. For children in especially difficult circumstances, the objective was to harmonize national and provincial laws with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nationally, the legislative review process has begun, particularly with respect to juvenile justice and child labour. In 1995, UNICEF advocacy and technical support helped the Province of Mendoza to adopt new legislation that is in compliance with the Convention.

12. The objective for water supply and sanitation of developing low-cost systems to extend coverage was achieved. UNICEF provided technical assistance in the design and execution of a safe drinking water project for urban areas in the Province of Chaco, benefiting 40,000 people. The model is now being extended to other areas through the Secretariat of Hydraulic Resources (Secretaría de Recursos Hídricos), with financial support from the World Bank.

13. The objective in basic education was to improve the quality of primary education in terms of teaching methodology and training materials for teachers. UNICEF developed pilot projects on participatory teaching methodologies and financed training for leaders in the teachers' union in two municipalities. UNICEF, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Province of Mendoza, carried out a survey to measure the quality of primary education for the first time in the country.

Lessons learned

14. The principal strategies of the first country programme for Argentina (1991-1995) were communication and advocacy, aimed primarily at civil society, and creating partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). While issues affecting children and women are of increasing public concern, the strategy needs to be complemented in the next country programme with more effective advocacy with governmental sectors at both national and provincial levels so that Argentina increases its social and financial commitments to children and adolescents.

15. Fund-raising was very successful. The communication strategy generated a larger volume of funds than planned. However, the pre-election situation in Argentina in 1994-1995 constrained programme preparation with provincial governments for the implementation of programmes financed by supplementary resources. Most of these funds were allocated to small-scale, social service projects implemented by NGOs. The local fund-raising strategy needs to be fully integrated into the country programme strategy so that supplementary funds will be utilized for priority objectives of the programme of cooperation. Through providing information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the mandate and policies of UNICEF, a more developmental approach by local donors will be promoted.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1997-2001

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
General resources						
Knowledge for rights	215	210	220	220	220	1 085
Rights in action	440	466	468	478	478	2 330
Voice of children	115	110	120	120	120	585
Programme support	230	214	192	182	182	1 000
Subtotal	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	5 000
Supplementary funding						
Knowledge for rights	485	655	570	570	570	2 850
Rights in action	1 495	2 400	2 185	2 185	2 185	10 450
Voice of children	885	1 075	980	980	980	4 900
Programme support	330	375	365	365	365	1 800
Subtotal	3 195	4 505	4 100	4 100	4 100	20 000
Total	4 195	5 505	5 100	5 100	5 100	25 000

16. The present country programme recommendation was developed in collaboration with the Secretary of Social Development of the President's Office, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the provincial governments of Chaco and Mendoza. Consultations were held with United Nations agencies in Buenos Aires, under the auspisces of the resident coordinator. Although bilateral support to Argentina is very limited, UNICEF held consultations with the missions of several members of the Executive Board represented in Buenos Aires.

17. The national development goals related to the situation of children and adolescents in Argentina are the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the eradication of poverty, the reduction of social and geographical disparities, the mitigation of the consequences of rising unemployment rates and the development of a new model for social policy management. With the incorporation of the Convention into the national Constitution, the goals set forth in the NPA have been established as rights for each and every child.

18. The objective for the country programme will be to support the Government and civil society in a national strategy for implementation of the Convention through: (a) creating ever greater awareness in Argentinean society of the situation of children and women, particularly with respect to the goals of the NPA and emerging problems affecting adolescents; (b) promoting a broader understanding of the Convention and its implications for public policy; (c) mobilizing the Government and civil society to take action on child rights issues; and (d) assisting selected provincial and municipal governments in developing social programmes to improve the situation of children and women and reduce social disparities.

19. These objectives will be pursued through a strategy of advocacy and public education to improve knowledge, attitudes and practices with respect to the rights of children, including wider use of gender equity as part of all programmes. Capacity-building of public and private institutions will include technical assistance in project design and management; the development of monitoring and evaluation systems; and training, mainly to support provincial governments in their efforts to achieve the NPA goals and implement the Convention. Families and community organizations will be educated and sensitized on rights issues through mass media communication and training; increased public awareness should create a demand for compliance with children's rights. UNICEF support to delivery of basic services will be limited to introducing new models designed to reduce social disparities in least favoured areas where state intervention is weak.

20. UNICEF will advocate the mobilization and redirection of public and private resources in favour of sustainable public policies to reduce disparities and further improve national-level indicators. UNICEF will continue to play a catalytic role in helping to link public institutions with NGOs and communities effectively to promote action for child rights.

21. Since the preparation of the country note for Argentina (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.16), programme plans have evolved through discussion with many partners. While the basic strategies remain as presented, the programme titles have been changed to better reflect the central role of children's rights in the programme.

Knowledge for rights

22. The programme will address the lack of disaggregated data at the provincial level concerning progress towards the achievement of NPA goals and emerging problems, and the need for information on the status of child rights for advocacy with the public and the Government. The aim will be to produce an ongoing, sustainable situation analysis on children and adolescents in Argentina based on a child rights' perspective. UNICEF assistance will help to improve governmental and non-governmental capacities to systematically collect and analyse social statistics at national and provincial levels, using relevant indicators as well as sustainable monitoring of NPA goal achievement. UNICEF will support research to increase knowledge and public awareness of child battering, drug abuse, sexual abuse, adolescent pregnancies, child labour and AIDS. A second component of the programme is the development of new social policy and planning tools for interventions at the provincial level. General resources will be used mainly to finance the development of a data bank on children and women and to foster research on violence against child, adolescents and women. Supplementary funding will permit research on other emerging problems including AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse among youth, and the promotion of public awareness on these issues.

Rights in action

23. The programme comprises two projects. The first project, on empowerment and participation, aims to increase institutional capacities and community involvement in solving problems facing children. The project will support the establishment of provincial and municipal Committees for the Defense of Children's Rights to promote solutions to the major problems of children, with the participation of governmental, non-governmental and community institutions. Issues of particular concern include community involvement in basic education and addressing the special problems of adolescents. In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, information and

education will target magistrates, court personnel, legislators and public officials responsible for policies concerning children and adolescents. The project will also support the full harmonization of national and provincial legislation with the Convention.

24. The second project, "From needs to rights", will cover the most disadvantaged provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Formosa and Chaco. The objective is to assist provincial governments in achieving the NPA goals, thus reducing social and economic disparities in the country. UNICEF will assist institutional capacity-building through technical assistance and training in the areas of health and nutrition, water supply and sanitation, and children at risk. Special emphasis will be given to the reduction of maternal mortality and the design of programmes to support unemployed women who are heads of households. UNICEF, in coordination with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), will support the design and implementation of employment programmes for heads of poor households, especially women. General resources will be used to carry out both projects in at least one province. Supplementary funds will allow the expansion to the other selected provinces.

Voice of children

25. The programme objective is nationwide public awareness of the situation of children and adolescents and the dissemination of the contents of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through the use of mass media campaigns, special events and publications. The partners will be national and provincial governments, the mass media and NGOs. An advocacy strategy for education on children's rights will cover children, parents and teachers through the school system and promote children's participation. Among the important sources for themes for this effort will be material produced by the "knowledge for rights" programme on the situation of children and women in Argentina, and results from the "rights in action" programme, publicizing real examples of effective and sustainable ways to improve that situation. In this sense, the first two programmes will support advocacy for children in a concrete manner.

26. General resources will support communications campaigns to disseminate the contents of the Convention, and supplementary funding will allow the expansion of advocacy on the situation of children and women through the broadcast and print media.

Fund-raising

27. A fund-raising strategy will be carried out through the following channels: (a) local private fund-raising through campaigns and special events; (b) earnings from the sale of UNICEF greeting cards and other products; (c) resources from international financial institutions, channelled through Government-UNICEF agreements; and (d) federal and provincial government funding. Local private fund-raising and product line and marketing operations should be able to provide a minimum of $12 million in supplementary funding.

28. It is critical that the messages generated for fund-raising purposes, which are widely disseminated, serve also as a vehicle for educating the public about the nature of problems facing children and youth in Argentina, as well as for helping to guide community and governmental action in solving those problems.

Monitoring and evaluation

29. Each programme and project includes a monitoring component. UNICEF will collaborate in strengthening governmental and non-governmental social information systems to monitor progress in achieving the NPA goals for the year 2000. Cost-effectiveness and the impact of media campaigns will be evaluated to strengthen the communication strategy. For the annual and mid-term reviews, the programme will also develop a methodology to incorporate public opinion, particularly children and adolescents' voices, into the monitoring and evaluation processes.

Cooperation with other donors

30. Cooperation with UNDP will be enhanced through the harmonization of cooperation cycles and the undertaking of joint activities in water and sanitation. In addition, cooperation with the World Health Organization in health and infant nutrition, with ILO on child labour issues, and with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Institute on crime prevention and juvenile drug abuse will be continued, as will cooperation with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and bilateral organizations for the implementation and evaluation of social programmes.

Programme management

31. UNICEF works with a complex network of partners in Argentina. The programme involves separate branches of the Government (the executive, legislative and judiciary) and, because of the federal structure of the Government, must work with each at both national and provincial levels (and with specific municipalities in some provinces). Non-governmental partners include professional societies, universities, the church, grass-roots organizations and the mass media. An important role of UNICEF is the promotion of sustainable partnerships in favour of children among these diverse institutions.

TABLE

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

COUNTRY : ARGENTINA
PROGRAMME : 1997-2001

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET (In thousands of US dollars)				POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/ (In thousands of US dollars)		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
GENERAL RESOURCES :																	
VOICE OF CHILDREN	585			585	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RIGHTS IN ACTION	2,330			2,330	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0.0	1,614.3	1,614.3
KNOWLEDGE FOR RIGHTS	1,085			1,085	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.0	248.7	248.7
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	1,000			1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0.0	809.7	809.7
TOTAL GR	5,000			5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7	0.0	2,672.7	2,672.7
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING :																	
VOICE OF CHILDREN		0	4,900	4,900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RIGHTS IN ACTION		0	10,450	10,450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
KNOWLEDGE FOR RIGHTS		0	2,850	2,850	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0	446.0	446.0
PROGRAMME SUPPORT		0	1,800	1,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SF		0	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0	446.0	446.0
TOTAL GR & SF	5,000	0	20,000	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	8	0.0	3,118.7	3,118.7
ADM. & PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET	Operating costs			1,325.4													
	Staffing				0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	4	7	796.2	2,360.6	3,156.8
GRAND TOTAL (GR+SF+ADM)					0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	9	15	796.2	5,479.3	6,275.5
Number of posts and staff costs:																	
Current programme cycle											2	5	8	15			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)											1	5	9	15	796.2	5,479.3	6,275.5

GR = general resources.
SF = supplementary funding.
FSF = funded supplementary funding.
NSF = new supplementary funding.
IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
ADM = administrative.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Exclude temporary assistance and overtime; include costs of United Nations volunteers.